United Nations S/2006/609

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 August 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 3 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose a letter addressed to you by Hoshyar Zebari, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

(*Signed*) T. Hamid **Albayati**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Iraq

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Annex to the letter dated 3 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) is set to expire on 11 August 2006. The Government of Iraq requests an extension of the UNAMI mandate for an additional 12 months, subject to the right of the Government of Iraq to request an earlier termination.

My Government is mindful of the historic role played by UNAMI in Iraq's transition from tyranny to democracy. The original UNAMI mandate was created by the Security Council in its resolution 1500 (2003) of 14 August 2003, on the basis of your report of 17 July 2003 (S/2003/715). We are equally mindful that very shortly thereafter, on 19 August 2003, the United Nations, Iraq and the world community suffered an incalculable loss with the murder by terrorists of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Sergio Vieira de Mello, and other UNAMI officials and staff. Yet, by the following year, the United Nations, acting through UNAMI, returned to Iraq, pursuant to an expanded mandate created by the Security Council in its resolution 1546 (2004) of 8 June 2004.

At that time, the Security Council mandated UNAMI, inter alia, to play a leading role in assisting the Government and people of Iraq to complete the political process resulting in the return of constitutional government for the first time in five decades. Recognizing the continued need for UNAMI to play this role, the Security Council extended the UNAMI mandate for another year in resolution 1557 (2004) of 12 August 2004. Over the course of that year, UNAMI assisted the Interim Government to prepare for and hold Iraq's freest and fairest elections in its history, and assisted the Transitional Government in establishing the institutions for drafting a permanent constitution, as well as helping to establish other rule-of-law institutions. The importance of a continuing UNAMI role was again underscored by the Security Council, which once more extended the mandate in resolution 1619 (2005) of 11 August 2005. Of course, in resolution 1619 (2005), the Security Council underscored that the role of UNAMI in Iraq was at the behest of the elected Government of Iraq, as it pledged in paragraph 2 to review that mandate sooner should the Government of Iraq present such a request.

While the political process envisioned by the Transitional Administrative Law and endorsed by the Council in resolution 1546 (2004) has formally come to an end, there remains much work for Iraqis to do to continue to build democratic legal and political institutions, to reintroduce the rule of law and civil society, to engage in a national dialogue to build peace and security and to rebuild Iraq's shattered physical and economic infrastructure for the benefit of this and future generations of Iraqis. The Government of Iraq believes that there continues to be a vital role for UNAMI to play in assisting us to achieve these and other goals, as we work together to build a productive and prosperous Iraq at peace with itself and its neighbours.

To these ends, and our need for United Nations active engagement to organize international assistance to the people of Iraq through an international contact group, the Government of Iraq requests an additional 12-month extension of the UNAMI mandate, subject to the right of the Government of Iraq to request an earlier termination by the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hoshyar **Zebari**
Minister for Foreign Affairs